

GSA ELECTIONS & REFERENDA COMMITTEE

MINUTES

2.0

Tuesday, June 3, 2025 GSA Boardroom, 1-31 Triffo Hall 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

QUORUM FOR GSA ERC IS THE CHAIR OR VICE-CHAIR AND 3 VOTING MEMBERS

GSA ERC VOTING MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Elsie Osei [EO] (Chair); Ibrahim Khodabocus [IK] (Vice-Chair); Jerry Gan [JG]; Md Rakibul Hasan [MH]

ABSENCES:

Amanda Nhi Tran [AT]

REGRETS:

Kaylee Craplewe [KC];

GUESTS:

IGSA Executives: Alexis Blanchette-Arnold, Meredith Leary

GSA ERC NON-VOTING MEMBERS:

Sophie Shi [SS] (GSA Chief Returning Officer); Temi David [TD] (GSA Deputy Returning Officer)

GSA SUPPORT STAFF:

Cindy Roose [CR] (Associate Director); Grace Adair [GA] (Administrative Specialist)

Time	Item #	Title	Presenter(s)
3:00	1	Approval of the Agenda It was agreed to begin with the consultation with IGSA first. E. Osei thanked the graduating members of ERC for their work on the committee. IK moved. MH seconded. Motion PASSED.	E. Osei, Chair
1 min	2	Approval of the GSA ERC Minutes of April 8, 2025 IK moved. JG seconded. Motion PASSED. Approval of the GSA ERC Minutes of May 6, 2025 IK moved. MH seconded. Motion PASSED.	E. Osei, Chair
	3	PRESENTATION ITEMS: None at this time	
	4	ACTION ITEMS: A. Motion to DELETE I.POL.12.6	E. Osei, Chair



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	 a. I.POL.12.6: Candidates who receive fewer votes than "None of the Candidates" in the GSA General Election and election of the AVPL cannot run for the same position in any related subsequent by-elections, GSA Council elections, or elections of the AVPL (as outlined in GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section I.POL.15). E. Osei summarized that the committee decided that this policy was needlessly unfair and there was discussion around deleting this policy. M. Hasan approved. J. Gan moved. M. Hasan seconded. 	
	Motion PASSED.	
5	DISCUSSION ITEMS: A. Vice-President Indigenous Relations Consultation with the IGSA a. Alexis Blanchette-Arnold, 2025-2026 VP Internal/External will be joining us for consultation to help plan next steps to fill the VPIR position	S. Shi, CRO
	D.POL.10.1.f: The position of VPIR will be filled by a GSA member who is an FNMI student from Canada. In the event that a suitable candidate for the Vice-President Indigenous Relations (VPIR) position is not found, the following actions will be taken, in order:	
	D.POL.10.1.f.ii A re-election will be held as per I.BYL.5. D.POL.10.1.f.ii The GSA Council will be asked to nominate a student who meets the eligibility criteria, in close consultation with the Indigenous Graduate Students' Association (IGSA). The nomination process should give due consideration to the current IGSA Councillor and IGSA President as possible nominees, among other eligible candidates.	
	D.POL.10.1.f.iii If no student is found after all of the above, to ensure the GSA is still fulfilling their commitment and responsibility to Truth & Reconciliation, the salary for the position will go towards funding for FNMI students.	
	I.BYL.5.2: In the event that a Vice President Directly Elected Officer position remains unfilled by the end of the GSA By-Election, either due to no candidates running for the position or "None of the Candidates" is elected, the position shall be considered dormant for a period of one (1) year.	
	M. Leary stated that from their perspective, they believe it should be handled by the IGSA, to allow Tamara Dube (the only VPIR candidate)	



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 who withdrew during the VPIR by-election) to be appointed. S. Shi clarified whether they would still like to do an FNMI election or if they should just appoint the candidate. A. Blanchette-Arnold confirmed that the IGSA would like to appoint this year, and clarify the policy at a later date. S. Shi stated that from our perspective, it makes sense for FNMI students to have more of a say, not the GSA Council, re nominating a candidate. Our policy is not very clear regarding this process after a by-election. E. Osei agreed and stated that the IGSA appointing a candidate should be added to the policy for future reference. M. Leary agreed that there are inconsistencies to be ironed out, and Tamara can help consult in this process for future elections. I. Khodabocus asked for clarification regarding whether the VPIR's in-person attendance requirement would still be in place for outreach and university meetings, as previously decided by the ERC, as the position is not a fully remote position. M. Leary clarified that as the candidate was considered eligible in the by-election, they are still eligible now. A. Blanchette-Arnold confirmed that the candidate is based on Augustana Campus and the candidate is able to balance in-person and online meetings. E. Osei approved. S. Shi suggested raising a motion passing the appointment decision authority to IGSA. J. Gan moved. M. Hasan seconded. 	
Additional Business • M. Hasan stated that this will be his last ERC meeting, as he is graduating this June. E. Osei thanked him for his work on this committee and wished him good luck.	
Adjournment 3:23PM	
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